

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 26, No. 10
November 2013
www.daytonsbluff.org

"The Voice of the Community"

Beauty at Bruce Vento



Dayton's Bluff resident Mona Rath took the above photo during a morning jog through the Bruce Vento Sanctuary.

Looking for Neighborhood Honor Roll candidates

by Karin DuPaul, Dayton's Bluff Community Council

The quality and amount of community volunteerism in St. Paul is amazing. The Dayton's Bluff Community Council is looking for three people or groups to add to the Dayton's Bluff honor roll this year. If you know someone who does outstanding volunteer work in Dayton's Bluff, call Karin at 651-772-2075 or email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org.

The St. Paul Neighborhood Honor Roll started in the 1980s as a list of St. Paul citizens who do outstanding service in their neighborhoods. Each year, all 17 District Councils can add three names to the honor roll. Past honor roll inductees volunteered for years at a church or a school, served on their community council board of directors, were block club leaders, led projects like buckthorn removal, or spearheaded a community event.

Last year, the Dayton's Bluff District 4 Community Council added Paul Broderson, Carlos Stewart, and the team who developed the Youth in Transition Program, a program to get kids out of gangs (Colin and Mary Moore, and Steve Randell) for their service in Dayton's Bluff.

The St. Paul Neighborhood Honor Roll is located in the hallway on the third floor of City Hall.

One last look



Photo by Greg Cosimini

A statue of St. Therese stands near the front door of St. John's before leaving the church forever. The church, a Dayton's Bluff institution for 127 years, is closed and vacant.

St. John's Catholic Church for sale

by Greg Cosimini
special to the Forum

It seems impossible to put a price on a place that has been the spiritual home to thousands of people over the past 127 years – a place that has seen the happiness and sadness that accompanies countless baptisms, first communions, confirmations, weddings and funerals; a place where neighborhood children used to walk to school to learn their ABCs and multiplication tables; a place where the somber observances of Advent and Lent gave way to the joyous celebrations of Christmas and Easter.

But as a matter of fact, it is possible. St. John's Catholic Church, which includes the school and church buildings, parish house and parking lot, recently went on the market. It can be yours for \$929,900. The property can be purchased, but the memories will always belong to those who once called St. John's their parish.

The school and church have literally been stripped bare. Anything that wasn't firmly attached is no longer in the buildings. The organ was removed from the choir loft immediately after the church was closed in early July. It is now also for sale separately. The statues, Stations of the Cross, crucifixes, candleholders and other religious items are all gone.

Some objects have already found new homes. The statue of the parish's patron saint, St. John the Evangelist, that stood on the main altar for 90 years, is now at St. Pascal's, with whom St. John's merged on July 1. It will be used in a St. John's chapel being created there. The Matt Talbot shrine also went to St. Pascal's. The two altar angels and another statue went to the University of St. Thomas. Smaller statues, donated to St. John's in memory of departed loved ones, went back to the donor families. Many other statues and religious items went to St. Patrick's Guild, where they will be resold. Hymnals have found their way to other parishes that enjoy a similar style of music.

St. John's was often overshadowed by its neighboring church, Sacred Heart, high on the hill at 6th and Arcade Streets. As a matter of fact, when explaining how to find St. John's, it was often easiest to tell them to go to Sacred Heart and then head two blocks east. And yet, as quiet and hidden as St. John's Church was, it was also a unique building of almost museum quality, little-appreciated by the rest of the world.

The outside, while interesting from an architectural standpoint, is a fairly conventional church design. But the interior was something else. It was one of those buildings that appears bigger on the inside than the outside, partly because it is rather large in comparison to other local churches, but also due to its huge stained glass windows. These unique arch-topped windows provided an ever-changing color and pattern of illumination as the sun moved across the sky. It is unfortunate that the name of the maker of these windows has been lost.

St. John's was also a showcase for the creations of the Daprato Statuary Co. of Chicago, a world-famous maker of altars and statues in the early twentieth century. All three altars, the majority of the large statues, the altar rail, and the Stations of the Cross were manufactured by Daprato when the church was built in 1922. Daprato featured the altars and altar rail in its 1925 catalog.

While examples of Daprato work can be found in other area churches, such as the Cathedral and St. Agnes, the only Minnesota church completely outfitted by the company was St. John's.

What will happen to St. John's? For now, the church and school stand cold, dark and lifeless. Only the parish house is being used. It is hoped that someone will purchase the campus before a wrecking ball writes its final chapter.

St. John's may be gone, but it won't be forgotten. For more information about the history of St. John's, visit www.lostchurchesofstpaul.com.

Dayton's Bluff
Community Council
798 East 7th Street
St. Paul, MN 55106

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Friends of Swede Hollow

The next monthly meeting is on **Wednesday, November 13, at 6:30 pm.** Email karindupaul@comcast.net or call 651-776-0550 for more information and the meeting's location.

Get rid of your junk car; help Dayton's Bluff Community Council

Budget Towing of Minnesota, Minnesota's largest towing company, is owned by Roy Carlson, an active Dayton's Bluff Community Council board member. Budget Towing will remove any junk car or truck – located anywhere in St. Paul – and dispose of it at no charge to the vehicle owner or the property owner where it is located. The vehicle owner will receive paperwork for a tax donation, and Roy will also make a small donation to the Community Council for each car he tows.

Just contact Karin at karin@daytonsbluff.com or 651-772-2075 to get a junk car out of the way – and help clean up Dayton's Bluff.

Small business classes

The next Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Class is starting in April, 2014. This program helps start-up and young businesses on the East Side. All East Side entrepreneurs are welcome.

Class training lasts eight weeks and includes topics such as operations management, marketing, financial management, one-on-one assistance with creating a successful business, and preparing a business plan, plus eight hours of one-on-one time with the instructor.

Those who successfully complete the course and locate their businesses in target neighborhoods are eligible for ongoing business support services.

Some examples of businesses started by people who have previously taken this course include graphics, landscaping, photography, food service, restoration of wood furniture and works of art, custom floral design, and exterior and interior painting.

The course is sponsored by the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and the Neighborhood Development Center. There is a small registration fee based on a sliding fee scale. The next session will be starting soon and class size is limited. Please call Karin at 651-772-2075 or email karin@daytonsbluff.org for an application.

Meet the police

The Eastern District Police hosts monthly community meetings at 722 Payne Avenue, at the corner of Minnehaha Avenue. The next meetings are **Wednesday, November 20, at 6:30 pm, and Friday, November 15, at 9:30 am.** The meetings are intended to address and listen to concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side.

Join STOMP: STewards Of Margaret Park

This group is open to anyone committed to taking an active role in ensuring that Margaret Park remains a safe and beautiful green space with recreational activities for everyone. Visit us on Facebook at facebook.com/stompmn for the latest updates and announcements, or to ask questions or share your thoughts.

Community meeting: health care and citizen's arrests

Our November meeting on **Thursday, November 7, 6:30-8:00 pm** at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, 798 East 7th Street.

The agenda items include:

1. Police and code enforcement personnel help neighborhood residents work on problem properties, criminal and nuisance behavior, code enforcement issues and any other issues or concerns.

2. St. Paul Assistant City Attorney John Stechmann will discuss the citizen's arrest law. It's very easy for the citizens to become the perpetrator, and the perp to become the victim, of the misguided citizen's arrest law.

3. Nachee Lee, formerly the Executive Director of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, is currently working for the state of Minnesota as a MNsure educator. MNsure is Minnesota's new health care insurance plan.

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council holds its Community Meeting on the first Thursday of each month. The purpose of the meeting is to work with block clubs and neighborhood residents on problem properties, criminal and nuisance behavior, code enforcement issues and any other neighborhood issues, concerns, and/or new ideas for improvement in Dayton's Bluff.

Submit the addresses of problems ahead of time, so police and code enforcement can bring information about the problems to the meeting. All Dayton's Bluff residents are welcome to attend. If you need more information, email karin@daytonsbluff.org or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

The Forum needs YOU for a Friend

The *District Forum* newspaper is a nonprofit operation that mails out a free valuable community resource to every address in Dayton's Bluff. Please contribute to the paper at givemn.razoo.com under "Hopewell Communications."

Become a *Friend of the Forum* today by donating any amount online, or use the form on page 8 of this paper. Email editor@daytonsbluff.org for more information.

How much does an issue of the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* cost? Each issue requires many volunteer hours put in by neighbors writing, taking photos, and editing. The cost of printing each issue is around \$960.00 per black and white issue, and \$250.00 for editing and layout. Our ad base has fallen off over the years.

Because the *Forum* is a registered 501(c)(3) organization, your donation also offers the opportunity for a tax deduction. See page 8 to become a *Friend of the Forum* today!

The *Forum* is also still actively seeking paid advertisements for every issue. Consider taking out a one-time ad, or commit to a monthly contribution.

Take-a-Hike November 2

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike will be **Saturday, November 2.** Hikers meet at **10:30 am** in Indian Mounds Park at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard, and walk to East Side Heritage Park. The hike is about two hours (four miles) with some moderately rough terrain. Return transportation is available, if required. All are welcome.

Upcoming opportunities at Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center



● **Parent & Tot Time:** ongoing, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:00 am-12:00 noon.

● **Judo:** Mondays, 6:00-7:30 pm.

● **Free Zumba!** Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30 pm in the dance room.

● **Seniors "500" card playing:** every Friday, 12:00 noon-4:00 pm.

● **Free Rec Check program:** 1st-5th grades; registration is open to the public.

● **Self Defense:** Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00 pm (there is a fee for this program).

● **Dayton's Bluff Family Center Parenting Group:** every Friday, 9:00-11:00 am.

● **Early Heads up! Dinner With Santa:** Tuesday, December 10, 5:00-7:00 pm.

● **Want something to see? Come out and watch Rugby!** Every Tuesday and Thursday, 6:00-8:30 pm.

The Dayton's Bluff Rec Center is located at 800 Conway Street.

Stop by and check us out!

Dayton's Bluff Seniors Burger King Fundraiser Nov. 20

by Karin DuPaul
Community Organizer

Dayton's Bluff Seniors is a living-at-home block nurse program, helping seniors stay in their homes. Some of the services include rides to doctors' offices or the grocery store, nurse home visits, help finding chore services, and so on.

Dayton's Bluff Seniors has two part-time employees: Executive Director Rhonda Battisto, and Service Coordinator Carolyn Heim.

The organization recently received a grant, but funding remains a challenge. We invite you to our Burger King fundraiser on **Wednesday, November 20, 5:00-8:00 pm** at Burger King at 695 East 7th Street at the corner of East 7th Street and Maria Avenue. Dayton's Bluff Seniors will get 20% of the in-restaurant and drive-in sales when customers mention "Dayton's Bluff Seniors."

You must present a Dayton's Bluff Seniors Burger King flyer at the time of the purchase, and purchase things on the flyer, to benefit the group. Email karin.dupaul@comcast.net and she will email you a flyer, or call 651-776-0550. Your help is desperately needed to help the Dayton's Bluff Seniors.

To learn more about the group, call 651-776-7210 ext. 303.

Where is the American Legion stained glass window?

Forum staff

We received a call from Jim Harmon from the American Legion Post #515, which was located here in Dayton's Bluff for many years and is now located in Dayton, Minnesota.

Jim is looking for a stained glass window that says "Dayton's Bluff American Legion Post #515." He saw it in a house here in Dayton's Bluff about 25 to 30 years ago. If you have information about this window, please email karin@daytonsbuff.org or call 651-772-2075.

Community Sing with Women Against Military Madness

by Carla Riehle, Forum staff

Join your peace-loving neighbors at the Minnesota Music Cafe for the third annual Community Sing with WAMM (Women Against Military Madness). It will be led by "resident songwriter" Brigid McDonald, who will award a prize for the best verse about peace, set to the tune of "Do Your Ears Hang Low?" Send your entry to wammsong@gmail.com by November 8.

This musical event is part of Minnesota Community SINGS, a group that's trying to bring back the tradition of community singing. More information at www.mnsings.com.

Twin Cities-based WAMM has been in existence for more than 30 years and consists of both women and men who come together to "dismantle systems of militarism, economic exploitation and global oppression." Despite this weighty goal, they're a group that manages to have a lot of fun as they protest. You can find them at www.worldwidewamm.org or 612-827-5364.

The Community Sing with WAMM is scheduled for **Sunday, November 17, at 2:30 pm** at the Minnesota Music Cafe, 449 Payne Avenue. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$5 for kids, \$25/family. Proceeds go to help WAMM continue its work.

Mounds Park United Methodist Church

from a MPUMC release

Sunday Schedule

Adult Sunday School:
9:15-10:15 am
Pastor's Class: 9:15-10:15 am
Kids' and Youth Sunday School:
9:15-10:15 am
Worship Service: 10:30-11:30 am
Fellowship: 11:30 am-12:30 pm

Happy Halloween Party/Hallejuiah Harvest

All are welcome to this event on **Thursday, October 31, 6:00-8:00 pm**. Dinner, games, candy and pictures taken.

The pastor of MPUMC is Dennis Alexander. Call 651-774-8736, email secretarympumc@yahoo.com, or visit www.moundsparkumc.org for more information.

Home Tour in Dayton's Bluff

Forum staff

We are looking for 6 to 8 homes to be on the Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour, which is partners with the Minneapolis-St. Paul Home Tour, that will take place on **Saturday and Sunday, April 26 and April 27, 2014**. This will be the eighteenth year that the Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour has been part of the larger tour.

The tour has been successful in getting visitors to the neighborhood. They regularly like what they see here, and some move to Dayton's Bluff.

"I would recommend to others that they open their homes. It's an amazing ego boost," said one of last year's participating homeowners. Others said they liked the push to get their home improvement projects done in time for the tour.

You can nominate your own home, or talk to your friends and neighbors about having their homes on the tour. For more information, email karin@daytonsbuff.org or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

November and December at the Mounds Theatre

by Raeann Ruth, Executive Director, Mounds Theatre

"A Christmas Carol – Radio Broadcast Show" Live on Stage

"A Christmas Carol - Radio Broadcast Show" is back for the third year at the Historic Mounds Theatre.

Back before television, a holiday season tradition in America was listening to "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens as performed on radio by Lionel Barrymore and narrated by Orson Welles with the Mercury Theatre group. The music was composed and conducted by the legendary Bernard Herrmann.

Few actors ever gave more meaning to the character of miserly Ebenezer Scrooge than Lionel Barrymore, who first took on the radio role in 1934.

Originally aired live on Christmas Eve in 1939, this radio broadcast will live for a lifetime in the memories of those that heard it. If you remember listening and want to recapture those magical days of your childhood Christmas, or have never heard it but want to experience the magic of live radio theatre and create new memories for you and your family, this show is for you. It will become a treasured part of your holiday listening enjoyment for years to come.

Dates: **December 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21 at 7:00 pm, and December 8, 15, 22 at 3:00 pm.**

Tickets are \$15 for adults; \$10 for students and seniors; \$6 for children under age 12.

To purchase your

tickets online, please visit www.mounds-theatre.org. Purchase your tickets early, as they sell out fast; also, consider purchasing tickets for those hard-to-please folks on your Christmas list.

"Night of the Living Dead" Live on Stage

From the same creative team who brought you the spine-chilling "War of the Worlds – A Live Theatrical Radio Drama" and based on the legendary film by George Romero and John Russo comes "Night of the Living Dead."

Forty-five years ago, on October 1, 1968, an independent horror film astonished and scared audiences everywhere as droves of the undead filled the silver screen. And now it's lurching its way to YOU.

Experience the tension and horror like never before when it's your turn to be part of the action! Trapped along with the rest of the survivors hiding from the living dead menace outside – will you fall prey to becoming one of the zombie flesh eaters?

Or will you survive this Night of the Living Dead? The only way to find out is to be there!

The Historic Mounds Theatre is proud to present an original treatment of the beloved horror classic: "Night of the Living Dead – Live & Undead"

You may have seen it on screen. You may even have seen it on stage. Now come live it.

"Night of the Living Dead" has been resurrected this year for a special limited run. Book your tickets now before it's too late.

"Night of the Living Dead" runs from October 26 through November 10. Performance dates and times: **October 26 at 8:00 pm, October 27 at 3:30 pm, November 1, 2, 8 and 9 at 7:30 pm and November 3 and 10 at 3:30 pm.** Doors open half an hour before the scheduled performance time.

Tickets are \$15 for adults; \$10 for seniors/students; \$6 children under age 12. Get your tickets online now at our website at www.moundstheatre.org.

MOUNDS PARK BARBER STYLISTS

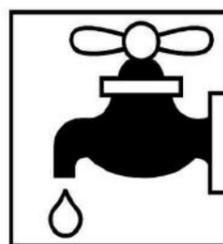


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APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE
TUESDAY THRU SATURDAY

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Judy Lee



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Dayton's Bluff
Neighborhood Housing Services
823 7th Street East
St. Paul, MN 55106
651.774.6995-office
www.dbnhs.org



A decade of destruction: the Minnesota RollerGirls celebrate 10 years



Photo by Meg Gronau

Above: Three Minnesota RollerGirls are proud to call Dayton's Bluff home. From left, "Myrna Ploy," "Stacy Wreckt," and "Salvador Brawlie" take a break after a tough practice. The Minnesota RollerGirls opened their tenth season of competitive women's flat-track roller derby on October 19. Their next game is Saturday, November 2, at 6:30 pm at the Roy Wilkins Auditorium in downtown St. Paul. Tickets for this action-packed evening of entertainment are available at the door.

The Minnesota RollerGirls are unpaid athletes who have donated over \$70,000 to charity over the league's history. The league is comprised of 80 female skaters, 20 referees, and countless volunteers who all work to put together a full evening of entertainment for upwards of 4,500 fans.

The City of St. Paul declared Saturday, October 19 "Minnesota RollerGirls Day," in honor of the league's 10 years and commitment to community outreach and empowering women. Learn more about the Minnesota RollerGirls at www.mnrollergirls.com.

Preparing to watch the glow



Photo by Karin DuPaul

Pictured, above, are many of the people who attended the annual "Watch the Glow of the Setting Sun on the Red Brick Brewery" event on September 21 in Dayton's Bluff. Historian Steve Trimble, far right, shared some Swede Hollow history with the visitors.



Hopeful smiles at transit meeting

Left: Organizers met at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council office to discuss transit in Dayton's Bluff.

Photo by Tim Herman



Kathy Lantry reminds you to VOTE

Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2013

Vote for Mayor and School Board Members

*Register to vote:
You may register before Election Day
or on Election Day
at your polling place.*

Polling places will be open from 7:00 am-8:00 pm.

10 years with Centromex Supermercado

article and photo by
Mark Gallagher
Forum Editorial Assistant

Centromex Supermercado, on the corner of Arcade and 7th Streets, celebrates its 10-year anniversary in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood by offering special deals for the whole month of November. This month-long celebration is offered as a thank-you to the neighborhood for its support over the past 10 years.

As the name *Centromex Supermercado* implies, the supermarket offers specialty foods and products from Central America and Mexico.

The dream for this store is to continue the tradition of providing the neighborhood with fresh fruit, fresh

vegetables, good meat cut to any taste, and all kinds of products imported from Central America and Mexico, as well as from local suppliers. A big part of that dream is to help people save money when they shop – to provide good products at affordable prices close to home – and to be available for special orders if customers need something that is not immediately on the shelf.

Centromex Supermercado originally opened its doors in November of 2003. All through November 2013, customers who visit the store can ask about daily specials.

Mark Gallagher is a professional writer and editor. He can be reached at refineeditorial@gmail.com



Centromex Supermercado is located at the corner of Arcade and 7th Streets.

Dellwood Gardens announces new administrator

from a Dellwood Gardens release

Sia Lo was recently named the administrator for Dellwood Gardens Assisted Living and Memory Care. Sia brings a variety of experience from a background in law, nonprofits, and working with minority communities.

Dellwood Gardens, located at 753 East 7th Street, will open in early 2014. This facility provides care to older adults with a focus on a multicultural setting, state-of-the-art amenities, and affordability. Sia will have a special focus on developing relationships with the community to best meet the needs of older adults.

Tim Meyer, Dellwood's management team lead, said, "We are thrilled to have Sia Lo joining us in this exciting new adventure providing affordable care. Sia's many longstanding relationships and leadership experience will be assets to Dellwood Gardens."



Transit Equity Town Hall

Join this historic opportunity for Eastside voices to be heard!

Gather with your fellow Eastside neighbors as we build the groundwork for community recommendations to ensure we receive equitable transit.

Where do YOU need to go?

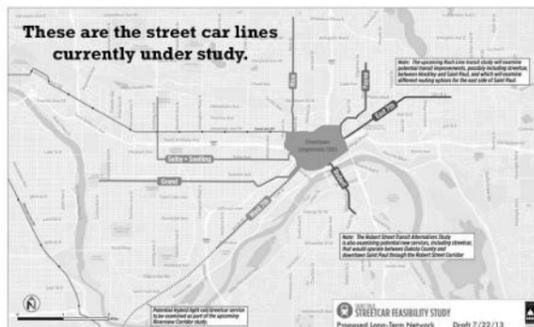
Transit Equity Town Hall, where EVERYONE'S voices are heard.

Time: 6pm - 8pm

Date: November 7

Location: Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center
800 Conway St.
Saint Paul, MN 55106

*Please respond if you require child-care, translation, or transportation.



Hosted by FESTECC
For more information or to RSVP, contact Tong Thao @ 763-742-5095 or tongthao@gmail.com
For Spanish translation, contact Jose Morales @ 651-329-0995 or amjlnic@hotmail.com



Above: Dellwood Gardens, offering assisted-living and memory-care options, will open in early 2014.

New home for the Council



Photo by Karin DuPaul

Above: Work continues at 800 Margaret Street, the future home of Dayton's Bluff Community Council.



565 Earl Street Open 11 am – 9 pm
10 Dilly Bars for \$7.67 All-beef hot dogs \$1.25

Buy one Blizzard, get the second (same size) for \$1.59

Bring in this ad and buy one malt or shake, get one free!

Expires 12/10/13

CENTROMEX SUPERMERCADO

816 East 7th Street

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK, 7:00 AM TO 8:30 PM

Celebrate our 10th anniversary in November!

10% off in credit on purchases up to \$30.

Many specials between Nov. 1 and Nov. 10: milk, eggs, tortillas, cheese, and many other items. Please come in and ask!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PURCHASE – GRACIAS POR SU COMPRA



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Board of Directors: Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul, Carla Riehle, Steve Trimble
Editor/Layout: Meg Gronau Editorial Assistant: Mark Gallagher

Next issue: December 2013. Deadline for material: November 10, 2013.

Metro State construction update

by Jennifer Herman
special to the Forum

Recent community meetings regarding the pending parking ramp construction at Metropolitan State University (MSU) have proven very disappointing to residents who attended with hopes of discussing possible modifications to the plan. Frustrated residents walked out in the middle of a July meeting hosted by MSU and a September meeting hosted by the Dayton's Bluff Community Council when it became clear that the University was unwilling to consider modifications to the size, orientation, or traffic flow in and out of the ramp. MSU students at the September meeting expressed empathy with the community frustration and an understanding for the need to modify the ramp design even though doing so will require subsequent modifications to their carefully planned student center. Nobody seems to be able to explain why the community and the students weren't brought together with administrators in a collaborative effort at the very beginning of the design process for these projects.

Community members have been clear that their concerns are limited to the lack of a collaborative plan-

ning process and the current ramp design. At every meeting, residents emphasize appreciation for the University, its work, its students, and even its expansion. Residents want the University to remain here, to expand its good work and they even strongly support a parking ramp. Residential streets around the University are regularly filled with the parked cars of students and staff and the new ramp should alleviate this ongoing irritation. Neighbors want Metro State to build a parking ramp – just not the ramp as it is currently designed.

MSU isn't the only place under development. The Dayton's Bluff Community Council has millions of dollars of pending development along 7th Street and the East Side Area Business Association (ESABA) is supporting new development at the Hamm's Brewery site, Beacon Bluff, and across the East Side. Though none of these projects have direct ties to the MSU expansion, ESABA Executive Director Tim Herman says that investors are aware of the community frustration with the ramp project and could view the community as opposed to development, if a satisfactory solution can't be negotiated. If the ramp project does not move forward,

not only will the community lose that \$66 million of investment at MSU, but millions of dollars in additional investment could be slowed down or halted due to nervous investors and developers. New development has the potential to bring a large influx of jobs, beginning to replace some of the 10,000 jobs lost in recent decades. Dayton's Bluff cannot afford to see this renaissance halted before it even begins. Out of this concern, the ESABA Board of Directors passed a resolution on October 4, 2013 (see column at right).

In addition, the Land Use Committee of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council (which will be asked for support of any variances required for the construction project) recently listened to suggestions outlined by community members who again expressed strong support of MSU, the student center, and a modified ramp. Based on that feedback, the Land Use Committee made a motion at their October 7 meeting to "Write a letter of support for the Metropolitan State University student center to be facing East 7th Street with a prominent entrance on East 7th Street, for entry and exit of the parking ramp to be on Maria Avenue, for there to be no more than

one level of the parking ramp above ground at its Bates Avenue end, and for establishment of a neighborhood partnership committee to foster transparency and meaningful conversations about Metropolitan State University's future issues."

It is hoped that this letter and these suggestions will encourage movement toward a parking ramp and student center plan that works for the University and the community and a more collaborative relationship in the future.

Obviously, there is a widespread need and desire for this project to move forward. To that end, a group of community members petitioned MSU President Sue Hammersmith, Representative Sheldon Johnson, and City Council President Kathy Lantry to work toward a solution with representatives from MnSCU, the organization that oversees the University. As of this writing, there was no final decision about how or whether the ramp would move forward. However, all the parties remain in conversation and President Sue Hammersmith expressed confidence that a solution would be reached which would work for everyone. Stay tuned for updates on this ever-changing situation.

ESABA's Oct. 4 resolution

WHEREAS, the mission of ESABA is to create opportunities, educate, and advocate success for St. Paul's Diverse East Side Business Community;

WHEREAS, significant work is being done to redevelop and revitalize East 7th Street, located in the Dayton's Bluff (District 4) neighborhood in the 7th Ward of St. Paul's east side, including a number of new construction projects in a concentrated area near Metropolitan State University;

WHEREAS, Metro State has immediate plans for the construction of three major buildings: a Parking Facility, a Science Education Building and a Student Center, with a total investment exceeding \$66 million;

WHEREAS, a 2.5 acre redevelopment site owned by the St. Paul HRA has very serious developers with plans for a grocery store and mixed-income rental housing for seniors;

WHEREAS, many other investments, large and small, are being made in the area that will have significant positive affect for the East Side Business Community;

WHEREAS, there is a range of significant community opposition to some of the new building plans, in particular the Metropolitan State University parking ramp;

RESOLVED, that all involved parties (public/private) work tirelessly together to ensure that these important developments move forward;

RESOLVED, that new developments both respect existing community interests, and ensure the realization of the full potential for new investment;

RESOLVED, that all parties adopt an open-minded approach that safeguards continued and expanding economic growth and vitality.

Letter to the editor: Dayton's Bluff earns, deserves well-planned development

I am in support of plans for a \$66 million investment at Metropolitan State University (MSU). I support a sufficient parking strategy that includes a ramp. For these reasons, I am very much in support of ESABA's October 4 resolution.

The ESABA resolution is encouraging for fostering clarity around the issues. I would like to also do my part toward this end, by sharing a reflection.

At the intersection of Mounds Boulevard and East 7th Street, the twin towers of MSU's "Old Main" building give the entire campus a landmark quality. Perched just east of downtown St. Paul, the campus is an impressive gateway to the historic Dayton's Bluff neighborhood, which stands on the height around and behind it.

Over the years, MSU has unveiled a series of Master Plans detailing their vision for expansion. Parking has always been a concern. The 2002/2005 Plan called for a ramp below ground, with a "green" roof that would serve as part of the university's quad. A rehashed 2011 Master Plan omitted any call for green space on the ramp, but MSU told community members that parking would be, at most, one level above ground where the campus meets the residential neighborhood at Bates Street. We have always been assured that the importance of protecting views from the surrounding neighborhood is understood and valued by the university.

Today, MSU is pushing forward with a five-story parking structure. Much of it is to be above ground, and will stretch the width of the campus on Bates Street at the highest elevation of the university's property. The neighborhood above will effectively be walled off. Any person inside the campus grounds will retain their lovely view on the city, while many residents and businesses in the blocks behind will not.

There have been no open discussions on this change of plans to date. The community has raised concerns about traffic flow from proposed entrances/exits, sight lines, integration with other planned development sites, and integration with planned mass transit development. In apparent contradiction with the ESABA resolution, there has been no substantial response from Metropolitan State/MnSCU.

Neighborhood residents have been told that MnSCU denies university representatives authorization to even keep a discussion of the ramp on the table. This is another contradiction to the ESABA Resolution.

We have also been consistently reminded that this development represents much-needed invest-

ment funding for the East 7th Street corridor. The worst implication that could be surmised here is that Dayton's Bluff residents are being asked to compromise our desire for quality developments in order to gain the highest possible quantity of investment funding. Another contradiction with the ESABA resolution.

These are our understandings, and we welcome correction or good counsel, but as residents of Dayton's Bluff and neighbors of Metropolitan State we disagree with this framing of the situation. St. Thomas, Hamline, and Macalester are all private institutions that have embarked on expansion projects over recent years while respectfully managing their neighbors' concerns. Shouldn't we expect a comparable degree of community interest from our public institutions?

In contrast, we believe the parking strategy Metropolitan State is currently presenting lacks a sophistication that

would be assumed in many other residential neighborhoods of St. Paul, and we contend that these plans have been promoted without reference to reasonable community perspectives. We respectfully question the degree of thought that has gone into how this piece of development will integrate with broader visions for the area, and for the East 7th Street corridor, and simply ask for potent engagement on the questions.

\$66 million is an exciting number because of its potential. We ask the university – and also MnSCU Chancellor Steven Rosenstone if necessary – to work in genuine partnership with neighbors and community, so that what is created at Metropolitan State meets its best potential, and does not fall unnecessarily short!

David Douglas
Dayton's Bluff

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Three troublesome tales

by Steve Trimble
Forum historian

While working on the group of articles that will be up online soon, I did find some interesting items that I had trouble fitting into the text. But they were too interesting to not share with others, so here they are:

Margaret Connelly's troubling story

The first is a sad story I found when researching the old Phalen Creek that ran through the northwest section of today's Dayton's Bluff. The *St. Paul Globe* in 1897 had a small series of articles on a young girl named Margaret Connelly. She lived at either 81 or 87 Phalen Creek – the paper used both – and was seven years old. Either address put her in Connemara Patch, an area mostly populated by Irish immigrant families.

She was playing with two other girls "about the banks of the creek at the foot of 5th Street." Here the creek is still open, but nearby there was a large sewer that took it under the railroad tracks to the Mississippi River. There was a stone arch that went over the creek, crossed daily by nearby residents. That is where little Margaret fell.

The water is usually only three feet deep there, but after heavy rains it had soared to ten feet. She slipped from the abutment at the mouth of the sewer and "in an instant was swept out of sight."

Police wagons and officers rushed to the scene and took boards, placing them in the manholes "with the hope that the body might be recovered before it reached the river." About an hour later she was found at the 4th Street manhole. Medical assistance was unsuccessful in saving her.

Residents said that they had been trying to get the city to put bars at the point the creek emptied into the sewer to prevent such accidents, but they had not been successful. In September, the matter was taken to court for \$5,000.00 in damages, but it was dismissed on April 9, 1897. There apparently had been an appeal, because three years later the troublesome case was again dismissed.

An unusual doctor in trouble

A headline in the *St. Paul Globe* newspaper in October of 1903 read, "Woman 'doctor' meets with serious injury." The article explained that the woman, a Mrs. Allis, called herself an "Esquagamah Indian doctor." I looked up the unfamiliar word and it turns out to be French for Eskimo, a term that has now been replaced by Inuit.

Mrs. Allis was said to be living in a tent at 1186 Burns "near the fish hatchery," where she "com-

pounds medicines which she vends." The location would be south and east of where today's Mounds Boulevard connects with Burns avenue. Perhaps she was living in the area of what we know as the St. Paul Municipal Forest, across the street from Obb's Bar.

The "doctor" met with a mishap and was hurt "while cooking breakfast in her camp." The ground was muddy around the stove and she slipped in a puddle, falling against a tent stake. She fractured a rib above her heart that caused serious internal injuries. "...Her own skill as a 'doctor' being of no avail," as the paper read, Dayton's Bluff physician G. A. Binder was called. He tried to get Mrs. Allis to accompany him to a hospital, but she refused the offer, "preferring to remain in her tent." She camped alone with her two children, who said they would nurse their mother back to health.

What happened after that? I looked at the next few issues of the newspaper, but had my own trouble discovering the aftermath.

A troublesome flag placement

The last item was found while researching the history of Indian Mounds Park. An important 1896 national gathering, called the "grand encampment" of Union Civil War veterans, was held in St. Paul. There were parades and events, one of which was held in Dayton's Bluff. It was one that would be troublesome today, but which reflected attitudes of the times.

On August 2, 1896, a flag-raising ceremony to honor the Union army survivors was held at Indian Mounds Park. According to a newspaper, the St. Paul Fire Department had provided a flagpole for the celebration and the "ladies of Dayton's Bluff" presented a flag to Fire Chief Jackson. The "mast," the pa-

per continued, was "erected at the summit of the middle mound," which they considered the highest point in St. Paul. The crowd was estimated at 4,000 and included music that was said to have been provided by a "1,500 member children's chorus."

I knew that early attitudes toward the Indian Mounds were lamentable – destruction of the burial sites, paths up the remaining mounds, people standing on them and sightseeing-- but this was the first time I knew of someone actually sticking a pole into one. Well, almost. For a long time during my lifetime, there were electric poles running through the park; one of them was partially placed in the side of a mound. This remained the case into the 1990s, until the electric company was forced to remove them by a state law. And that really was troublesome.



This vintage postcard shows people standing atop an Indian Mound in St. Paul.

Rehabbing for Habitat

Right: A Habitat for Humanity team was hard at work last month fixing up this house on 5th Street in Dayton's Bluff.



Photo by Tabitha DeRango

View from my porch

Consider the whole child

by Sage Holben
President, Dayton's Bluff
Community Council

I had never seen him before. He was dressed in a neatly-kept but older, long overcoat and a brimmed dress hat; odd and out of place for the time. He seemed to be in his forties, but then it was almost 15 years ago that I first saw him. He remains a stranger to me, but I'll never forget him...and the tears that streamed down his face. They were like prisms of rainbow colors...the man who cried rainbow tears.

When I saw him, he was standing at a bin of some sort – I thought he was sorting through old LP records. I saw this nameless man not in a dream and not in reality, but as I opened my eyes, between sleep and the day, 15 years ago.

Recently, I finally made the connection. For years I had wondered why he was crying. Finally, the mystery revealed itself and I understood. He was silently lamenting all the children we could not reach.

Who are these children we can't reach? They are youth trying to swim from the "island of childhood" to the "island of adulthood." Some youth seem to make the distance effortlessly; some need an adult calling encouragement from the shore. Others

need one or two adults to swim alongside – perhaps only partway, perhaps all the way onto the shore of "adult island."

When I was a foster parent for teens in crisis, a speaker from the Children's Defense Fund used the island example and a diagram of youth development to illustrate why adults need to come alongside children as they "swim." This diagram could be applied at any age (obvious from the degenerate social actions we witness on our streets). If we recognize this in our youth, we can give them a boost, a memory, an adjustment, a step up. Picture a human head of a 15-year-old. Now fill it with abstract proportions. We might have a 15-year-old with the sexuality of a 23-year-old, social skills of a 12-year-old, general intelligence of a 14-year-old, and the decision-making skills of a 10-year-old.

When a teen can form a relationship built on trust and stability with an adult, he or she will have a better chance of becoming a responsible adult equipped with appropriate social and critical thinking skills. We need to ask ourselves, and then act on the challenge: Who is the child I am helping to adulthood? Am I teaching the skills he or she needs?

What's the **BIGGEST THING** this neighborhood needs?

Write down the most important thing you think would benefit Dayton's Bluff, then clip out this box and mail it to the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* at 798 East 7th Street, St. Paul, MN 55106.

Dayton's Bluff needs _____

Name: _____

Or find the *Forum* on Facebook and submit your ideas there!

Ever think, "Someone should do something...?"

You ARE someone...in Dayton's Bluff.

Join us at our Community Council meetings. All are open to the public and held at the Community Council office at 798 East 7th Street.

Board of Directors:
3rd Monday each month,
7:00 pm

Land Use Committee:
1st Monday each month,
7:00 pm

Equity Committee:
1st Tuesday each month,
6:30 pm

Vacant Building Committee:
3rd Thursday each month,
6:30 pm

Greenspace Committee:
3rd Monday each month,
6:00 pm

Ask about our **Marketing, Arts and Cultures, and Outreach Committees.**

Call 651-772-2075 for more information.

